

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, SF

SUBJECT: CURRENT DATA ON CAPE HAKES

1. THE NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE (NMFS), NOAA, COMMERCE APPRECIATES EMBASSY'S RAPID AND SUCCINCT REPLY TO PREVIOUS INQUIRY ON SOUTH AFRICAN PILCHARD AND ANCHOVY. THE INFORMATION WILL BE OF GREAT ASSISTANCE TO NMFS'S MARKETING RESEARCH STAFF.

2. AN OFFICIAL OF THE GORTON'S CORPORATION OF GLOUCESTER, MASS. HAS INQUIRED ABOUT THE CATCH OF CAPE HAKES (MERLUCCIOUS CAPENSIS AND M. PARADOXUS). EVEN THOUGH PERU AND ARGENTINA HAVE LARGE HAKE CATCHES, THE QUALITY IS INFERIOR TO THE TWO SOUTH AFRICAN HAKE SPECIES. THUS THE CAPE HAKE FISHERY IS OF FAR GREATER INTEREST TO THE U.S.

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MARKET THAN THE HAKE FISHERIES IN LATIN AMERICA.

3. NMFS HAS REVIEWED 1975 ISSUES OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN SHIPPING NEWS AND FISHING INDUSTRIES REVIEW THROUGH NOVEMBER BUT FINDS HAKE MENTIONED IN ONLY GENERAL ARTICLES ON FOREIGN TRAWLING OPERATIONS OFF THE SOUTH AFRICAN COAST.

4. NMFS WOULD APPRECIATE THE FOLLOWING DATA ON FISHING OPERATIONS FOR THE TWO SPECIES OF CAPE HAKE MENTIONED IN PARAGRAPH TWO:

A) 1974 AND 1975 SOUTH AFRICAN CATCH AND LANDING DATA AND ANY AVAILABLE ESTIMATES FOR 1976. CATCH AND LANDING DATA OF FOREIGN FLEETS OPERATING OFF SOUTH AFRICA FOR THE SAME 2 YEARS WOULD ALSO BE OF INTEREST. FOR THE EMBASSY'S INFORMATION, NMFS IS POUCHING HISTORICAL DATA FOR THE SOUTH AFRICAN AND FOREIGN CATCH OF CAPE HAKES FROM 1965-1973.

B) HAVE ANY FURTHER REGULATIONS BESIDES MINIMUM MESH SIZE BEEN IMPOSED OR ARE BEING CONSIDERED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE SOUTHEAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES (ICSEAF).

C) WHAT ARE CURRENT ESTIMATES FOR THE MAXIMUM SUSTAINABLE YIELD (MSY) OF THESE 2 SPECIES. NMFS NOTES AN ARTICLE IN THE APRIL, 1974 ISSUE OF SOUTH AFRICAN SHIPPING NEWS AND FISHING INDUSTRY REVIEW ENTITLED "FIRST SE ATLANTIC CONTROLS IN FORCE NEXT YEAR" WHICH CONTAINS PARTIAL MSY ESTIMATES. MORE RECENT AND/OR COMPLETE ESTIMATES WOULD BE APPRECIATED. KISSINGER

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